



Thursday
SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

★ **FREE** ★

A Chicago Tribune
publication

REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

Wet summer dries up business **6** Chicago's albums of the century (so far) **26**



NOT IN OUR PARKS

Free as a bird? Not so much. Chicago Park District
votes to ban smoking in city's parks, harbors **page 3**

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM

EAT

SIP 'N' SLIDE
Unite Urban Grill
 1450 W. Chicago Ave.
 312-455-8900

Stop in for a trio of veggie, beef or short rib sliders for \$9. The restaurant recommends pairing the bites with Forbidden Root Sublime Ginger ale, Lagunitas IPA and Allagash saison, the \$9 beer flight of the month. 5-7 p.m.



DRINK



OKTOBERFEST TAP TAKEOVER
High Noon Saloon

1560 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-227-9339
 Drink \$6 drafts of seasonal beer from Hofbrauhaus, Spoetzel Brewery, Left Hand Brewing Company and Two Brothers Brewing Company with suggested food pairings including chicken-fried steak (\$16) and chicken enchiladas (\$11). The event also features raffles and giveaways from the breweries. 7-10 p.m. No cover. Phone RSVP recommended.

BEER AND SPIRIT TASTING FUNDRAISER
The Bar on Buena

910 W. Buena Ave. 773-989-6246
 Sample booze from nearly 80 brands including Vander Mill Cider, Johnnie Walker and Begyle Brewing Co., plus appetizers including quesadillas and barbecue mini-burgers. The seventh annual benefit for the Women's Health Initiative at Swedish Covenant Hospital also features a raffle for beer-related merchandise. 7-9:30 p.m. \$40-\$45. Tickets: brownpapertickets.com

DO

FREE INK, PAPER, POLITICS: WPA-ERA PRINTMAKING FROM THE NEEDLES COLLECTION

DePaul Art Museum
 935 W. Fullerton Ave. 773-325-7506

See 56 prints produced during the Great Depression that depict city life, the workplace and economic inequality, and learn how people historically viewed the images during the exhibit's opening reception. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

FREE ARTWARENESS
Threadless HQ

1260 W. Madison St.
 The art show and raffle benefiting Hope For The Day's suicide prevention and awareness efforts features work from 35 local and national artists, plus music from DJ SnicholFritz. Revolution Brewing, Brooklyn Brewing and Dark Matter Coffee serve drinks. 6-9:30 p.m. RSVP required: artwareness.org



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REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Get your tickets for the third annual Windy City BBQ Classic on Oct. 11 at Soldier Field: windycitybbqclassic.com

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KISS YOUR ASH GOODBYE

Chicago Park District passes resolution with no opposition to ban smoking in parks, harbors

By **Leonor Vivanco** | REDEYE

If you're going to Riot Fest this weekend, be on the lookout for no smoking signs.

Smoking at Humboldt Park, where Riot Fest will be held, or any other city park was officially banned Wednesday after the Chicago Park District board passed a resolution without opposition, making parks and harbors smoke free.

The measure expands the smoking ban beyond beaches, playlots, playgrounds and park field houses under the park district umbrella and prohibits smoking any cigar, cigarette, pipe or vaporized substance in parks and harbors.

"It's a breath of fresh air," said Joel Africk, president and CEO of the Respiratory Health Association.

The smoking ban became an enforceable offense upon passage, although the park district's attorney Tim King said they didn't want to start hammering smokers with the ban and want to allow for a public notification period.

Passage of the smoking ban in the city's 580 parks doesn't affect just Riot Fest. It will mean concertgoers at a range of concerts in city—including the big-ticket Lollapalooza, Pitchfork and North Coast music festivals—will have to kiss their ash goodbye.

King said he talked to Riot Fest's attorneys and there will be signs posted.

Riot Fest promoters declined to comment on how a smoking ban would affect the fest, including how it would comply with a smoking ban, whether it would create a designated smoking area or revisit its re-entry policy.

Pitchfork organizers declined to comment because the festival, held at Union Park, has not yet met with the park district about guidelines for the new regulation, festival spokeswoman Jessica Linker said.

"Once the festival is appraised of any new implementations, they will work with the park district to outline a plan for the festival," she said.

Lollapalooza, held in Grant Park; North Coast, held in Union Park; and Live Nation, which operates Northerly Island's First Merit Pavilion, did not return a call for comment.

The park district code already bans smoking within 15 feet of beaches and fines violators up to \$500.

The same distance and fine will apply to parks and harbors. So stepping inches away



Lucie Stahl, 24, puts out a cigarette on her boot in Wicker Park last week. Stahl, who is from Seattle, said, "I was surprised that I did not see any no smoking signs when entering the park." Lenny Gilmore/REDEYE

to the sidewalk to light up won't be so simple, park district spokeswoman Jessica Maxey-Faulkner said.

Park board president Bryan Traubert suggested the park district staff look into how other cities notify the public of the no-smoking rule such as handing out cards explaining the law.

The smoking ban affects Chicago's 10 harbors as well. But people would be allowed to smoke on their boats, which are private property, park district spokeswoman Kiera Ellis said before the ban passed. Smoking would not be permitted on park district land at the harbor, she said.

Cigar smoker Michael Altshuler plans to continue smoking in parks and risk getting slapped with fine for violating the parks smoking ban.

"If someone gives me a hassle about it, I'll move," said Altshuler, 46, who lives in Ukrainian Village. He doesn't smoke inside his home but likes to sit in parks, relax and smoke a stogie. "It's more of social activity to smoke with friends and have good conversation," he said.

"My choices and my options are being taken away by this and I don't like it," Altshuler said.

Mayor Emanuel has supported a smoke-free parks policy in his "Healthy Chicago" public health agenda issued in 2011, and a statement from his office last month said the push for a ban would be explored.

On Wednesday, the mayor's office said the park policy complements Emanuel's work on the issue in bringing the adult and youth smoking rates down in Chicago, which has the highest tax total in the country at \$7.17 per pack of cigarettes.

"The Mayor supports smoke-free policies like the one passed by the Park District Board because they create an environment that encourages smokers to quit and discourages kids from picking up the habit," a statement from his office said.

Before Emanuel took office, city council passed the Clean Indoor Air Ordinance prohibiting smoking in Chicago's restaurants, bars, sports areas, concert halls and inside other public places.

The Respiratory Health Association pushed

for the ban, citing reasons to protect the public from second-hand smoke, reduce cigarette butt litter, encourage smokers who want to quit and prevent youth from picking up the habit.

Nearly nine out of 10 smokers start before the age of 18, and 98 percent start smoking by age 26, the association said.

"We're not trying to punish and shame the smokers," Africk said.

Although it falls on the police department for enforcement, King told the park board that the much of it would rely on self-policing and "policing by public scorn."

King said he was not aware of any tickets being issued for violating the park district's smoking ban passed in 2007 for beaches and playgrounds.

"It's like curbing your dog. That's a fine. That's a violation of Chicago municipal ordinance to leave dog feces at a park. But how many people have you ever seen ticketed for that?" King said.

"We are making a statement that there's a law available to be enforced."

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Lauren Angles of Heartland Alliance (left) helps Gerardo Soto, 25, enroll for the Affordable Care Act, aka 'Obamacare.' ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE

Obamacare in real life



Scott Bolohan

redeye@tribune.com
@scottbolohan

I was invincible.

Like, Mario-star invincible. And why wouldn't I be? I hadn't been sick in years. I worked out every day. I commuted on my bike like I own the city. At 27, you don't stop to think about being anything less than invincible. That's for old people, for someone else. Besides, nothing bad has ever happened

to anyone who was 27.

In June I slid into third base in my men's league baseball game, something I had done hundreds if not thousands of times in my life. I caught my right cleat on the ground and landed funny. I thought it was just a sprain.

My fibula was broken.

I figured I'd be in a cast for a month, if that. Instead, I had surgery, with a plate and five screws put in to stabilize the break. I've just started walking again. Every day is a struggle to accomplish the most basic activities I had always taken for granted.

Still, it could have been so much worse. I freelance for a living, and with that career you don't get things like health insurance.

At the end of last year, I signed up for Obamacare as a complete afterthought. I waited until the deadline like it was homework—if I put it off long enough, maybe it would just

do itself. My experiences with the system have been far from perfect. The entire rollout and signup process were confusing. It took hours of calling to find an orthopedic surgeon who would take my insurance, and I had to travel more than an hour to get to the appointment.

But without Obamacare, I would not have had insurance. Like most people I know my age, I'm getting by without a lot of wiggle room. Hundreds of dollars a month on traditional coverage is something I wouldn't have been able to manage. My surgery, hospital visits and physical therapy would have cost somewhere between \$15,000-\$30,000 with no insurance at all.

That's a life-altering amount. I certainly wouldn't be getting a master's degree in the fall, probably would have moved to a cheaper apartment and definitely would have needed another job or three. I have no idea where my life would be right now. It's a terrifying thought.

And yet I haven't heard many stories like mine, in part, I think, because of the stigma that comes with Obamacare. It's become a political issue so shrouded in negativity that it's easy to forget it helps real people like me. Instead of struggling for years with added debt and an unhappy life, I will be walking normally before long; all this will be nothing more than a struggle I overcame. But I'll always have a six-inch scar on my ankle to remind me of what could have been.

Thanks, Obama.

SCOTT BOLOHAN IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

3 TO TRY TUMBLR THURSDAY

You know the drill by now—if you're not following these Tumblrs already, you should be. Have a suggestion for a Tumblr to feature? Send a tweet to @jessicagalliant. JESSICA GALLIANT, REDEYE SOCIAL MEDIA LADY

A Taxonomy of Mansplainers

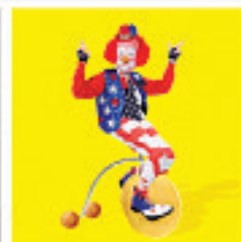
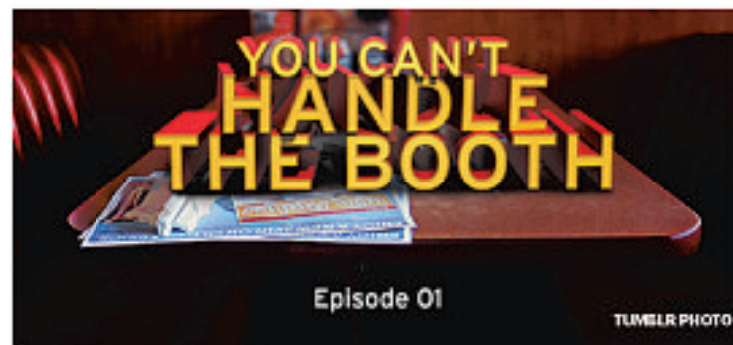
taxonomyofmansplainers.tumblr.com

Consider this a dictionary for the different kinds of "mansplaining," basically the act of a man explaining something to a non-man in a condescending manner because he's a man and inherently knows better.

Example:

"I'm pretty sure you're overreacting."

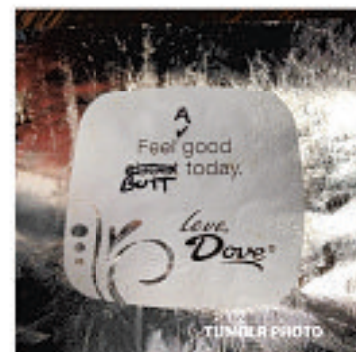
While he concedes that he "can see where you're coming from," he's pretty certain your criticisms of the portrayal of women in popular culture are a little extreme. I mean, hello. Hot chicks are given leading roles all the time.



Denny's 'Order Up'

blog.dennys.com

Denny's has an official Tumblr, and it is WILD, you guys.



Dove Gets Real

dovegetsreal.tumblr.com

Enhancing those little pieces of advice on the Dove Chocolate wrappers, one word at a time.



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WHATEVER HAPPENS.**





Jason Erkes, president of
Chicago Sport and Social Club
LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY

RECORD RAINFALL IN CHICAGO PUTS DAMPER ON SUMMER FUN

By Mick Swasko | REDEYE

Chicago's ninth wettest season on record has some Chicago businesses that rely on sunny skies and warm weather feeling like the summer's been a bummer. From rec softball and volleyball leagues to lakefront Jet Ski rentals, businesses say the combination of rain and lack of truly hot days have made this summer difficult, and some are feeling the pain more than others. Storms canceled one day of Taste of Chicago back in July.

While the average temperature for the season was almost perfectly at the 30-year average of 71.8 degrees (this season was 71.8 degrees), some summer stats have

been noteworthy. During meteorological summer—the three month period of June through August—there were only three days that reached into 90-degree temperatures, a

statistic WGN meteorologist Tom Skilling calls “way off” from the normal 17 days.

And if it seemed like it didn't stop raining, there's records to back that up as well. During the summer, 17.25 inches of rain fell in the city, making it the ninth wettest on record, according to the National Weather Service.

Take into account the 25.09 inches that were recorded at Midway Airport, according to Skilling, and it is the wettest on record since that site began keeping track of rainfall in 1928. On top of that, the Chicago area saw 6 percent more cloud cover than the average

this season.

Mother Nature has had a field day with Chicago Sport and Social Club, the largest organizer of recreational sports leagues in the city. The league typically reschedules about 2,000 games due to foul weather in a given year according to Jason Erkes, president of the company. However, since the beginning of June through August, 5,000 games have had to be moved, with some leagues that began in May still playing ball.

“Anybody that runs an outdoor business this season is feeling the effect,” he said.



Lincoln Park Boat Club practices in July as it rains.
LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

10 WETTEST SUMMERS IN CHICAGO

If you think this summer was bad, just be grateful it's not 1987. Here are the 10 rainiest Chicago summers since records began in 1871.

1987
23.48 inches

1957
20.28 inches
1993
20.15 inches

2011
19.08 inches
1885
18.92 inches
1924
18.38 inches

2001
17.82 inches
1950
17.45 inches
2014
17.25 inches
2010
16.81 inches

Erkes said the rescheduling—7,000 games in all when you count the spring season—is an inconvenience and organizing nightmare as opposed to a financial loss. He said this is the worst season he can remember for the 25-year-old business.

“We reschedule every single game [that is canceled], but at the end of the day it’s more frustration than anger [for players in the leagues],” he said.

For Chicago Water Sport Rentals—which rents Jet Skis, kayaks and other water equipment at the 31st Street Harbor—much of the early season was washed out. The company has seen 17 days of no revenue this season through August because of a combination of small-craft advisories that keep some equipment out of the water due to high waves, rainy days and cancellations from customers because of cooler weather.

“I could probably put a kid through a year of an Ivy League college with the amount of [revenue lost because of] cancellations I have had,” said John Gibbs, who owns the company. “It was a cooler summer, it never really hit its stride. It wasn’t what people were hoping for after the winter we had. I was really ready to have some scorching hot days.”

Despite the cancellations and days without revenue, Gibbs said he still has seen an increase in business this year. He said he’s hoping the summer weather will extend into fall, as his rental business continues operating

into October.

Not every business has been waterlogged however. Along the riverfront, water taxis operated by Wendella Sightseeing tours set a record for August with 78,799 rides—second only to the company’s record in July with 82,000 rides.



“Summer is the best thing we have to offer here in Chicago, and when we don’t have it, it makes people question, ‘What the hell am I here for?’ We’re hoping we at least get some payback in the fall.”

—Jason Erkes, president of Chicago Sport and Social Club

That’s despite getting a later-than-normal start because of ice on the river, according to the water taxi’s Chief of Operations Andrew

Sargis. However, business has not gone completely unscathed from the weather. Sargis said rising river waters because of flooding from rain has kept some boats out of operation more often than usual this season.

“Every year it seems like it happens once or twice,” he said. “But this year it does seem like it’s happening more.”

The water taxis have to halt operation when the river rises because it can become unsafe to load and unload passengers at docks, and also because some of the boats cannot clear the bridges on the river. The same goes for operations at Shoreline cruises, which also operates a fleet of 12 boats for sightseeing tours and water taxis.

Amy Hartnett, the director of sales and marketing for Shoreline, said business has halted about four times throughout the season due to the high river waters.

“Each summer is different, each season is different,” she said. “At the end of the day, it all kind of washes out.”

For Erkes, who is still rescheduling softball, volleyball and other rec league games because of the recent rains, a good fall season is what will keep the frustration of the summer at bay.

“Summer is the best thing we have to offer here in Chicago, and when we don’t have it, it makes people question, ‘What the hell am I here for?’,” he said. “We’re hoping we at least get some payback in the fall.”

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chicago

THURSDAY
62/51
Cloudy w/ upFRIDAY
62/50
More cloudsSATURDAY
60/47
So chill

Verizon announced it will give subscribers who trade in an old iPhone a free iPhone 6 in exchange for a 2-year contract.

Next stop: quirky ads on Red Line?

Chicago Transit Project's squirrel facts and goat picture ads fully funded

By Mick Swasko | REDEYE

Riders on the CTA's Red Line are one step closer to seeing ads that feature random pictures of goats and facts about squirrels.

The Chicago Transit Project—the brainchild of Chicago comedian and freelancer Ben Larrison—received full funding on Kickstarter on Friday, and closed at 6 p.m. Wednesday. The project aims to place about 100 quirky advertisements on Red Line trains, with concepts such as facts about squirrels and random pictures of goats.

"I know how tough it can be to take the train everyday," said Larrison, 27, of Lakeview. "It's nice to have little things that can make you smile once in a while."

The intent is also to insert some humor in what Larrison says is a commuter's daily routine of being bombarded by branded advertising.

"We can't stop this advertising onslaught, but we can take back just a tiny little bit of what we see—and make it super ridiculous and dumb," Larrison wrote in the Kickstarter's description.

The campaign was a second try for Larrison. The first funding campaign fell short of its \$4,100 goal, but with encouragement from friends and folks who supported the original project, he decided to give it a second shot.

Setting the funding period at just two weeks, he said he thinks he created the sense of "urgency" for people to donate. Along with being included in Kickstarter's newsletter as a featured project, he met his new goal of \$3,999 around 1 p.m. Friday.

"It happened really quickly," he said. "I was extremely excited and kind of overwhelmed. It was such a blur of how quickly it took off."

To lure potential donors, Larrison offered equally quirky perks. A \$40 donation, for example, gets a backer a print of a hand-drawn picture of a squirrel riding the CTA (17 people jumped for that). For \$15, he promised to put a nice note about the backer in a random RedEye box (nine people donated at that level).

Larrison even saw one donor snag the highest level of donation—\$1,000—which promises to put the donor's name on the actual advertisements.

Being a little off-the-wall is nothing new for Larrison. This June, he crowdfunded a campaign to have a slam dunk contest with the WNBA's Sheryl Swoopes. He also founded Northwestern's Happiness Club, which built pop-up sandboxes on the university's campus and brought in dogs for those studying for finals week. He was a cast member for ComedySportz's "Improvised Double Dare."

Larrison's next step will be reaching out to more than 90 donors, asking them to vote on their favorite idea for the campaign. He said he will also take suggestions from the donors about what they want to see. Currently he is

building a website for the ads that will feature the name of every donor. He hopes to have the ads done, approved and placed in two to four months.

As of now, none of the designs or ideas are locked down, but Larrison said he has already reached out to the CTA's advertising agency, Titan, to get

“ I know how tough it can be to take the train everyday. It's nice to have little things that can make you smile once in a while.”

—Ben Larrison, Chicago comedian and freelancer

quotes and information.

He also said he is aware of the CTA's policy on advertising, and said he is confident none of the ads will violate any rules.

Reached for comment, a CTA spokeswoman said the agency could not comment on ads they have not seen, but said they will be reviewed just like any other ad that is proposed for trains. Ultimately, the CTA has final approval.

In general, the CTA does have guidelines for advertising. They include prohibiting ads that are political in nature, or ads that are legally obscene, sexually explicit, depict nudity or portray graphic violence. They also cannot be disparaging or discriminatory, or incite lawless or illegal action.

Larrison said he's read the guidelines "up and down," and said he doesn't think an ad featuring squirrel facts will be an issue.

"All of these things are basically just creating an atmosphere or moment of joy," he said. "I can't see it being an issue." MSWASKO@TRIBUNE.COM | @SWASKO

THE DIGIT

124.6 MILLION

That's the number of adult Americans who were single in August, meaning more than half of the adult U.S. population is single, according to data used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In 1976, it was 37.4 percent and has been trending upward since. BLOOMBERG

EXPRESS LINES

» No public funds will be spent on the design, construction, operation or maintenance of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, Chicago Park District officials said Wednesday.

» An indoor sky-diving center is in the works for Chicago's North Side—not far from where the old Cabrini Green public housing high-rises once stood, Crain's Chicago Business reported. The center would open toward the end of 2015, according to Crain's.

» Uniformed security guards will patrol CTA parking lots more frequently, under a contract the CTA board approved Wednesday at its monthly meeting. The uniformed guards also will upgrade the revenue collection equipment at the Rosemont Blue Line to pay upon the driver's exit to the parking lot, not entrance. REDEYE



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For Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine: www.rossu.edu/veterinary-school/Student-Consumer-info.cfm. ©2014 Global Education International. All rights reserved.



TOP: Police gather at the scene of a fatal shooting in Chatham on Sept. 4. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Residents look on as police investigate a shooting scene near 8600 S. Ingleside Ave. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Police investigate the scene of a homicide in West Englewood on Saturday. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE**

HOMICIDE TRACKER

By Tracy Swartz | REDEYE

There were 15 homicides in Chicago in the past week including two men who were stabbed to death Friday in Norwood Park, the North-west Side community area's first homicides in nearly two years, a RedEye analysis of preliminary police data found.

The men, ages 35 and 20, stabbed each other to death in the 5800 block of North Mobile Avenue, according to officials, who said the double homicide was a drug robbery gone wrong.

The last Norwood Park homicide was in November 2012, when a 43-year-old man was stabbed to death on North Natoma Avenue.

Double homicides by stabbing are rare. The last such case was in August 2012, when a 64-year-old man and 48-year-old woman were found stabbed to death in the 6400 block of North Sacramento Avenue in West Ridge, RedEye determined.

In the past week, gunshot homicides were logged in Albany Park, Burnside, Chatham, Clearing, Grand Boulevard, Humboldt Park, Logan Square, New City, North Lawndale, Portage Park, West Englewood and West Town, RedEye found.

Meanwhile, a 53-year-old man was beaten to death Sept. 4 in the 2600 block of West North Avenue in West Town, police said.

Sixteen homicides have been logged so far this month. Forty-three homicides were recorded in September 2013, RedEye found.

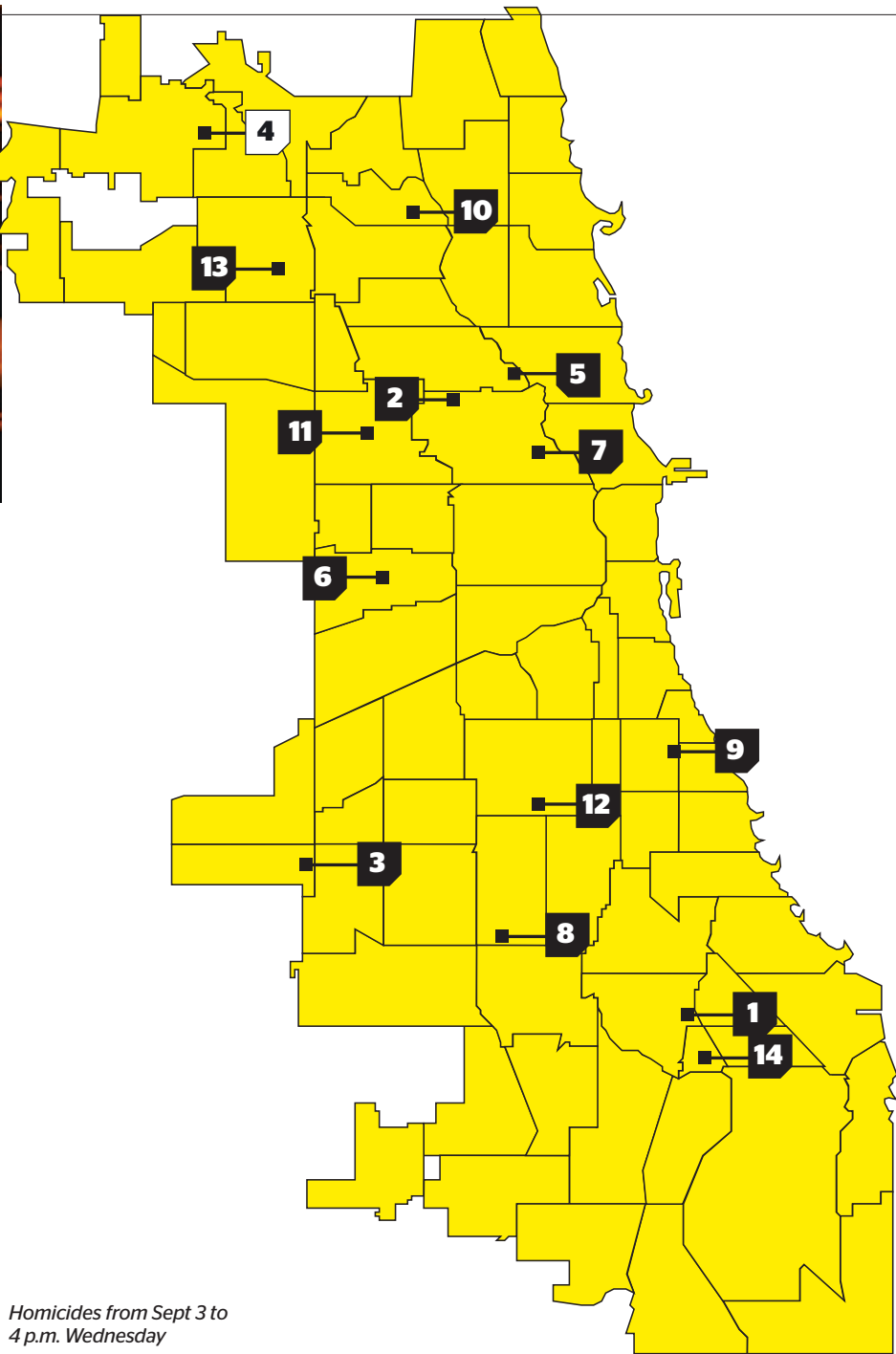
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CHICAGO VIOLENCE

ONE CITY UNDER THE GUN

MORE ONLINE

Check out RedEye's interactive homicide map at redeyechicago.com/homicides, which now includes information on every homicide in Chicago since Jan. 1, 2007.



Homicides from Sept 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesday

- 1

8600 BLOCK OF S. INGLESIDE AVE.
Date: Sept. 4 Cause: Gunshot
- 2

2600 BLOCK OF W. NORTH AVE.
Date: Sept. 4 Cause: Trauma
- 3

6200 BLOCK OF S. KILPATRICK AVE.
Date: Sept. 5 Cause: Gunshot
- 4

5800 BLOCK OF N. MOBILE AVE.
Date: Sept. 5 Cause: Stabbing
- 5

I-90 AT THE ARMITAGE AVENUE EXIT
Date: Sept. 5 Cause: Gunshot
- 6

1500 BLOCK OF S. LAWDALE AVE.
Date: Sept. 6 Cause: Gunshot
- 7

1300 BLOCK OF W. CHICAGO AVE.
Date: Sept. 6 Cause: Gunshot
- 8

7300 BLOCK OF S. DAMEN AVE.
Date: Sept. 6 Cause: Gunshot
- 9

4500 BLOCK OF S. EVANS AVE.
Date: Sept. 6 Cause: Gunshot
- 10

4500 BLOCK OF N. KEDZIE AVE.
Date: Sept. 7 Cause: Gunshot
- 11

1100 BLOCK OF N. HARDING AVE.
Date: Sept. 8 Cause: Gunshot
- 12

5400 BLOCK OF S. LAFLIN ST.
Date: Sept. 8 Cause: Gunshot
- 13

3700 BLOCK OF N. LARAMIE AVE.
Date: Sept. 10 Cause: Gunshot
- 14

9300 BLOCK OF S. GREENWOOD AVE.
Date: Sept. 10 Cause: Gunshot

KEY

SINGLE HOMICIDE

DOUBLE HOMICIDE

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1 A woman plants some of the 3,000 flags placed in memory of the lives lost in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, at a park in Winnetka. **REUTERS**



2 The Red Arrows fly past the ArcelorMittal Orbit at the opening ceremony of the Invictus Games at the Queen Elizabeth Park in East London. **REUTERS**



3 Colored chicks are seen for sale at a roadside stall in the Indian town of Amritsar. **GETTYIMAGES**



4 Smoke rises in the sky as a factory is burning after an explosion in Germany. **GETTYIMAGES**

Obama touts strategy to 'degrade,' 'destroy' ISIL

5 Reuters

President Obama on Wednesday outlined a "steady, relentless" strategy to combat Islamic State fighters "wherever they exist," signaling he will target the militant group in Iraq and neighboring Syria where the fighters have captured large swaths of territory.

The president laid out his emerging plan for tackling the group in a widely anticipated White House speech, two weeks after coming under fire for saying: "We don't have a strategy yet" for the group in Syria and six months after declaring that groups like Islamic State were minor players.

"Our objective is clear: We will degrade, and ultimately destroy, ISIL through a comprehensive and sustained counter-terrorism strategy," Obama said, using an acronym for Islamic State.

He said he would hunt down Islamic State militants "wherever they are."

"That means I will not hesitate to take action against ISIL in Syria, as well as Iraq. This is a core principle of my presidency: If you threaten America, you will find no safe haven," he said.

He said he would expand the list of targets inside Iraq beyond several isolated areas. He will send 475 more American advisers to help Iraqi forces, joining more than 1,000 already there. They will not engage in combat.

Obama faced a barrage of criticism last month after

acknowledging that his administration had no strategy yet for dealing with the militants in Syria. The president's speech was aimed at countering critics as well as preparing Americans for lengthy engagement.

Backing up the president, Secretary of State John Kerry flew to Baghdad for meetings Wednesday with the new prime minister, Haider Abadi, and other political leaders to discuss how the U.S. can increase its support to the new government there to help confront the insurgents. And Obama spoke by phone with King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, another key potential ally.

The president's plan marks the first direct U.S. intervention in Syria, a reversal of the White House's long-held resistance to becoming entangled in its 3-year-old civil war. And it will certainly represent a dramatic escalation of a campaign that just a month ago Obama declared would be narrowly focused and limited to protecting U.S. citizens in Iraq and assisting refugees that fled the Islamic State as it rapidly seized large parts of the country this summer. Administration officials now surmise that achieving Obama's stated goal of "ultimately destroying" the group may take years, leaving it a task for future presidents to complete.

Obama was expected to repeat his commitment to achieving his aims without sending ground troops into combat and dragging the United States back to war in the Middle East just three years after U.S. troops left Iraq.

Cameron urges Scots not to vote for independence

6 British Prime Minister David Cameron on Wednesday begged Scots not to rip apart the United Kingdom's "family of nations," flying to Scotland to man the barricades against a surge in support for independence eight days before a referendum.

Ukraine: Russia withdrawing forces from east

7 Ukraine's president said Wednesday that Russia had removed the bulk of its forces from his country, raising hopes for a peace drive now underway after five months of conflict in which more than 3,000 people have been killed.

Man faces murder charges in deaths of his 5 children

8 A 32-year-old man accused of killing his five children in South Carolina and driving their corpses through several states before dumping them in garbage bags in Alabama will be charged with murder, law enforcement authorities said Wednesday.

Retailers alerted over bomb-making materials in U.S.

9 The government plans to give U.S. retailers a list of materials that can be used in explosives and ask them to look out for suspicious behavior as a way to combat domestic terrorism, the homeland security secretary said Wednesday.



THE DIGIT

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Sprint introduced an "iPhone for Life" plan that lets customers get a new version of Apple's smartphone every two years as it moves to win back customers lost to rivals including T-Mobile US. The service costs \$70 a month and includes unlimited data, Sprint said on its website Tuesday.

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sports

Whole new spin

Elimination rounds part of this year's Chase format

By Emily Brown | FOR REDEYE

When the NASCAR Chase for the Sprint Cup begins Sunday at Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet, fans and drivers are in for a whole new ballgame, so to speak.

Now more than ever, NASCAR's final 10 races of the season will have a playoff feel because drivers will be eliminated systematically during the Chase. The field, called the Chase Grid, also has expanded from 12 drivers to 16.

"It's different," said Kyle Busch, who's eighth in the standings entering the Chase. "It lends itself to a lot of different options. This year we won our race at California Speedway; it gave us an opportunity to do a lot of different things in the season to try and win races, which we were unsuccessful at. It lent itself to some crazy pit strategies and things for other drivers to get their way into the Chase."

"So now it starts over. You still have to have consistency throughout these final 10 weeks to get yourself to move on if you're not having those victories, but obviously victories are what's most important."

Here's the breakdown.

THE CHASE

■ To start the Chase, all Chase Grid drivers' points have been reset to 2,000, with three bonus points for each win in the first 26 races of the season.

■ The number of drivers in contention for the NASCAR Sprint Cup championship will decrease every three races, with three rounds leading to the final, winner-take-all race Nov. 16 in Miami.

- **Challenger Round:** 16 drivers start the Chase
- **Contender Round:** 12 drivers remain after the third Chase race (all points reset to 3,000)
- **Eliminator Round:** 8 drivers remain after the sixth Chase race (all points reset to 4,000)
- **Final race:** 4 drivers remain after the ninth Chase race (all points reset to 5,000)

■ Any driver who wins a race and is still in championship contention automatically moves to the next round.

■ In the final race of the season, only four drivers will remain eligible for the championship. The highest finisher of those four will win the title.

WHO'S IN

(in order of Chase standings; 2014 wins in parentheses)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ Brad Keselowski (4) | ■ Denny Hamlin (1) |
| ■ Jeff Gordon (3) | ■ Kurt Busch (1) |
| ■ Dale Earnhardt Jr. (3) | ■ Kasey Kahne (1) |
| ■ Jimmie Johnson (3) | ■ Aric Almirola (1) |
| ■ Joey Logano (3) | ■ AJ Allmendinger (1) |
| ■ Kevin Harvick (2) | ■ Matt Kenseth (0) |
| ■ Carl Edwards (2) | ■ Greg Biffle (0) |
| ■ Kyle Busch (1) | ■ Ryan Newman (0) |



WIN A RACE, GET A BEAN

Nashville winners nab a guitar. What should Chicago racers earn?



Emily Brown

■ redeyesports@tribune.com
■ @emily_brown88

the driver faces the stands) along the front

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stretch of the track to salute the fans.

Afterward, the winner heads to victory lane to celebrate with the team and receive the trophy, and some are cooler than others. Martinsville Speedway winners receive a grandfather clock. At Texas Motor Speedway, they get a wooden boot, and at Nashville Superspeedway, it's a guitar.

Since Chicagoland Speedway opened in 2001, NASCAR's top series has visited the track every year, but there's no unique tradition or special trophy for the winner. That needs to change.

So for the Chicagoland trophy designers, here are a few ideas.

1 A 5-foot-long relief in the shape of the Chicago skyline

Go big or go home, right? Plus, what's more beautiful than the city's skyline?

2 A Willis Tower replica

The second tallest building in North America has represented Chicago since 1978. It was the tallest building in the country until this year. Race winners should get a reminder of this, so how about a 10-foot scale model?



THE STARTING LINE

■ White Sox vs. Oakland, 1:10 p.m. CSN ■ FIBA World Cup semifinals: U.S. vs. Lithuania, 2 p.m. ESPN ■ NFL: Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 7:25 p.m. CBS



Chicagoland Speedway



1



3

TRIBUNE FILE AND GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTOS



4



3 A rustic-looking Ferris wheel that actually revolves

Navy Pier's 150-foot Ferris wheel is a must-see for tourists, and now for racers too. And yes, having it revolve is non-negotiable.

4 Their very own Bean

Formally known as Cloud Gate, the Bean in Millennium Park reflects the Chicago skyline. There are two options here: either a bean-shaped trophy with the skyline painted on it to reflect the view the Bean casts, or the winner gets his or her very own Bean, reflection and all.



Dale Earnhardt Jr. (left) hugs his girlfriend Amy Reimann after winning the GoBowling.com 400 in August. USA TODAY SPORTS FILE

What would Jr. do?

By Emily Brown | REDEYE

Dale Earnhardt Jr. first tweeted in February after winning the Daytona 500 for the second time. Since then, the motorsports superstar has tweeted 4,000 times and boasts 761,000 followers.

Earnhardt uses the site to interact with teammates, fans, his girlfriend (Amy Reimann) and fellow drivers. And how does he deal with the inevitable haters? Simple: He favorites the tweet and then blocks that user. We picked a few of Junior's best entries.

ON LAUNDRY FAILS

"The first wash wasn't kind to my new James Hunt tshirt. Damn thing shrunk down to Amy's size. Incredible stroke of luck for her I'd say."

ON 'CLASH OF CLANS'

"Y'all didn't know I was a geek? My war spread is dif than my regular spread. Watched too many @YouTube videos. #nerd

ON HIS HUNGER AND LACK OF SPICE KNOWLEDGE

"@Amy_Reimann wants to discuss why dry thyme and fresh thyme

smell different. I'm just hungry. Maybe god or Morgan Freeman knows."

ON GETTING DUMPED

"@jordin_2014: @DaleJr Got any advice for getting dumped?"
1.Focus on the 1 thing about them that annoyed u the most.
2.Party with friends."

ON HOW TO BREAK UP

"@lanS_Miller: @DaleJr man, you got any break up advice? Hah"
I ran an advice booth at the mall once. #TrueStory
Do it in person. #HighRoad"

ON GETTING HIS CAR TO HANDLE IN PRACTICE

"They found the Titanic. We even went to the moon once. You'd think fixing that tight on entry wouldn't be such a pain in the ass. #Practice"



Earnhardt Jr. practices last month. GETTY IMAGES



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RUN, JAY!

Bears fans don't want Jay Cutler to get hurt, but they don't want silly interceptions either. There has to be something in between.



Jane Monzures
@janemonzures
WGN TV host



Bryant McFadden
@Bmac_120
120 Sports analyst



Sami Grisafe
@SamiGrisafe
Former Chicago Force quarterback



Jay St. Pierre
@jaysstpierre
RedEye Ragin' Cajun



Shaun Davis
@ShaunM Davis1
82.7 FM The Game

1	What could get Jay Cutler to run with the ball more often?	Tell him the media are coming to interview him!	If the entire offense except Jay stayed at home on game day.	Money—oh, wait, does anybody have an extra wish they're not gonna use?	The bear from that Will Ferrell movie "Semi-Pro" chasing him down from behind.	Line him up at running back against the Bears defense. They make everyone look like a Hall of Famer.
2	The Chase for the Sprint Cup is in town this weekend. Where should drivers go to practice?	Take the Edens during rush hour so they can practice sitting still on pit row.	Interstate 94.	Ashland Avenue. They'd get some pretty fierce competition. #DestinationMotivation	Michigan Avenue. They can swerve in and out of traffic with all the city's cabdrivers.	#RushHourOnTheRyan ... practice your bumper-to-bumper skills.
3	If you were a NASCAR driver, who would be your chief sponsor?	Maybe it's Maybelline?	McDonald's.	Bill Murray. Imagine it ... GLORIOUS!	In-N-Out so I can hear announcers say, "Jay St. Pierre gets in and out the In-N-Out car!"	Ralph Lauren of course. Repping my car's #HorsePower.
4	What can you tell us about Lithuania's basketball team, the U.S.' opponent Thursday?	They have limited tape to watch if they try to game plan against Derrick Rose.	They're very tall.	The head of their mascot from a few years ago looks like a fortune cookie. #FoodForThought	That Lithuania actually has a basketball team. That's where my knowledge about them stops.	They just beat Turkey, but their goose is cooked vs. USA on Thursday.
5	Who said this: "It's funky and nasty; James Brown-type stuff"?	Tourists at 4 a.m. on a Saturday in River North.	The twerk queen, Miley Cyrus.	Anyone who rides the Red Line between midnight and 5 a.m.	Funkmaster Flex is the only person I've heard say "funky" without sounding like a loser.	Chris Sale. Funky delivery with some straight nasty stuff. #KZone

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PHOTO COURTESY OF OCTOPUSSY

Skydivers perfect falling with style

National championships return this week to Chicago area

By **Andy Frye** | FOR REDEYE

For the second straight year, the United States Parachute Association will hold its annual National Skydiving Championships just outside Chicago in Ottawa, Ill.

After a dip in popularity following 9/11, skydiving rebounded slowly and is now on a tear. The USPA reported that last year its membership reached an all-time high.

During the 12-day event, which starts Thursday at Skydive Chicago, the USPA Nationals hosts more than 500 of the nation's top aerial athletes. While there are individual competitions in freefall style and accuracy landing, much of the growth within the sport has come in formation skydiving, in which teams of four to 16 divers work together like synchronized swimmers in the sky.

One of the teams competing in nationals is Chicago-based Octopussy. The team is comprised of eight women whose members range in age from mid-40s to 50s.

Montana Miller, Octopussy's team captain, is one of the team's youngest members at 44 and has been jumping out of planes for four years. At 1,100 jumps, she notes the competition will be fierce but that the team is ready with more than parachutes.

"Everyone on our team is incredibly physically fit, [they are] dynamic and able women," Miller said. "[Skydiving] is a great form of human connection and bonding."

Once divers exit the plane at approximately 10,000 feet, teams typically have 35 seconds to complete a set of formations before freefalling toward Earth at more than 120 mph. Many teams that will compete at the USPN Nationals are crews of four or eight divers (known as four-way and eight-way teams, respectively).

Whether it's four-way or eight-way, generally teams compete with the aim of completing their formations quickly, with accuracy and agility, while being scored on their form. Teams are accompanied by a freefall videographer, who captures their performance live on video for the judges to award points and penalties.

Practice days involve seven to 10 jumps, with several consecutive days of jumps being common for teams gearing up for competition.

"It's not so much that we get a big thrill out of jumping out a plane; it feels quite natural to us," Miller said. "It's the sense of working together, flying from grip to grip and being really in sync with each other. That's where the thrill is."

"In skydiving you tend to have real strong, assertive people. They don't shy away from a challenge."

ANDY FRYE IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



Goodell

Report: NFL had Rice tape in April

In a development that could have a devastating effect on NFL management, The Associated Press is reporting the league was provided a copy of the Ray Rice elevator tape in April—even though NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has insisted no one at the NFL saw the video until this week.

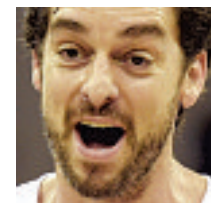
"We are not aware of anyone in our office who possessed or saw the video before it was made public on Monday," NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said Wednesday. "We will look into it."



Alshon Jeffery (front) and Brandon Marshall
JOSE M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE

Bears already short-handed

Bears receivers Brandon Marshall (ankle) and Alshon Jeffery (hamstring) sat out practice Wednesday as the team began preparing for Sunday's game. Coach Marc Trestman said they are "day-to-day," Marshall said Tuesday that he expects to play.



Gasol

Thanks a lot, France

Well, you can forget about that Pau Gasol-Derrick Rose matchup in the FIBA World Cup final. While Rose and Team USA are still alive, Gasol and Spain

were bounced by France, 65-52, in a quarter-final Wednesday. Guess we'll have to watch football instead.



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Bird on the run

Bucktown barbecue joint Lillie's Q adds a fried chicken takeout window

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

Though it's tough to resist his sassy mustache, my idea of a good time in a bucket doesn't involve the Colonel. In the interest of serving up a classier option for takeout bird, LQ Chicken Shack—which lives inside Lillie's Q in Bucktown—opened up shop late last month. I stopped by to see if this new option from chef/owner Charlie McKenna is worth crowing about.

Take flight: Unlike fellow fried-chicken sandwich resto Leghorn, which opened earlier this year, LQ Chicken is solely a takeout joint. Diners can call ahead or order from the tiny takeout window on the western side of the building, which the friendly cashier who popped her head out termed her “coop.” McKenna said he has no plans to place any seating around the window—there's just no room. But fortunately, as he said, “chicken is great as a takeout window.” My date and I placed our order and waited like, well, chickenhawks for our meal to appear, which only took about 15 minutes.

The bird: LQ Chicken's namesake dish comes two ways: as thighs, breasts and legs with a side of tupelo honey (\$11-\$25) or as the Shack Chicken sandwich (\$7). The former option, battered in flour, seasoning and buttermilk, has been on Lillie's Q's menu almost since the dawn of the restaurant, McKenna said. But his team had to get creative. “Back when the restaurant first opened, we wanted to put fried chicken on the menu, but we only had one fryer and couldn't drop the temperature down to fry the chicken raw,” he said. Thus, his birds are smoked before hitting the fryer. The results are fine, but not outstanding. Moisture trapped against the meat created an unpleasant, tacky layer that made the batter flake off in chunks, and I found myself missing the satisfying crunch that comes



LQ Chicken Shack
fried chicken and sides



Shack Chicken sandwich

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LQ Chicken Shack
takeout box with sides

with a well-fried bird. The pounded-out breast meat fared much better in sandwich form, though the bottom of the plain burger bun failed to hold up against a layer of pickles. All chicken orders come with your choice of three LQ barbecue sauces. While the Carolina Gold usually is my fave, it didn't pop quite enough against fried fare. Stick with the Smoky or Hot Smoky sauces, depending on how zesty you like things.

The sides: My date claimed not to be a grits fan—excellent, more for me. I scarfed down the creamy, bacon-topped goodness before turning to the roasted potato salad (\$5 each). McKenna told me the recipe features bacon, whole-grain mustard and rosemary, but my date swore it was swimming in ginger. The

strange flavor was so overpowering that we couldn't get through more than two bites before shoving it away. A real crime, however, would be to mess up the biscuits (\$2). No worries about that here. LQ opts for cakey biscuits rather than flaky, and I felt much like a carb-addled Winnie the Pooh after topping mine with both honey and honey butter. This would have been an excellent vehicle for the chicken sandwich. The winner for the most aesthetically strange? The Kool-Aid Pickle (50 cents each), which, if you've never seen one, is bright red. Sweeter than even the sweetest of sweet pickles, the spears were nicely balanced with an underlying tangy spike.

The carton: Instead of a paper bag, my

LQ Chicken order came in an adorable carton with a handle. It was so enchanting that I almost didn't notice that utensils and napkins weren't included—until I tried digging into those grits at a nearby bar. Fortunately the bartender kept a box of plastic spoons behind the counter, but I would've been out of luck on an outdoor picnic.

The bottom line: LQ Chicken Shack has some tasty touches, but with so many fried chicken options popping up around town, the concept needs some tweaking to stand a chance at keeping up with the competition.

REDEYE REPORTERS VISIT RESTAURANTS UNANNOUNCED
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Coming this fall: Chicago Ramenfest

Chicago Tribune

Chicago's ramen culture has gone from zero to 100 in about a decade. Now, Bill Kim, the man who helped usher those noodles into local mainstream status with Urban Belly, is holding a ramen festival that will feature some of the city's biggest culinary talents. Ramenfest 2014 takes place Nov. 8 from noon-3 p.m. at Kim's BellyQ restaurant.

Check out the names of chefs participating, including some unlikely participants: Boka's Lee Wolen, The Bristol/Balena's Chris Pandel, Nico Osteria's Erling Wu-Bower, Sable's Heather Terhune, Honey



Kim

Butter Fried Chicken's Christine Cikowski and Josh Kulp, Smoque BBQ's Barry Sorkin, Yusho's Matthias Merges and former Spiaggia chef Sarah Grueneberg.

You can sample up to 25 ramens for \$45, with proceeds going towards Common Threads, the food education nonprofit. Tickets are available online: brownpapertickets.com



BellyQ

ABEL URIBE/TRIBUNE FILE



More ramen love!

Chicago has seen a hefty helping of new ramen-centrics open this year. Log on to redeyechicago.com/ramen to read our reviews of Strings, Kameya and Ajida and read more about ramen newcomers High Five Ramen and Ramen San, plus coming-soon restaurant Ramen Takeya.

Left: Shoyu ramen at Strings

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REDEYE FILE

Bacon buns (\$7) at Bohemian House

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When I see these two words together on a menu, my mind goes straight to the Lithuanian-inspired bacon buns on chef Dale Levitski's brunch menu at Lincoln Park restaurant Sprout. Though Sprout is long-gone and so are those delicious bacon buns, chef Jimmy Papadopoulos is stepping in to fill a bit of the void in my heart at River North newcomer Bohemian House. Not overly rich, these rolls crack open to reveal a jackpot of smoky bacon bits inside, and a side of plum marmalade for dipping is a nice complement. Pro tip: Turn them upside down before eating so you can really taste that course salt sprinkled on top. LISA ARNETT



Grilled oysters with bacon pearls and corn mousseline (\$16) at GT Fish & Oyster

531 N. Wells St. 312-929-3501

One of two new cooked oyster dishes at this River North seafood restaurant, this quartet of oysters features a mix of fall flavors thanks to corn mousseline (a hollandaise-like sauce) and bacon pearls (think miniature caviar, like in bubble tea). On the menu, the dish featured Stellar Bay oysters, which are similar to a Kusshi oyster but bigger and meatier. The flavor of the bacon pearls was more subtle than expected (and that's a good thing), which doesn't overpower the fresh-from-the-sea taste of the oysters. LISA ARNETT

get playful with traditional Korean bimbimbab topped with vegetables, and a bowl full of perfectly cooked rice. The dish is full of roe and a duck egg. The contrast between the creamy and crunchy textures, plus the belly-warming, umami-rich Asian flavors, makes this an exemplary version of the Korean classic. KATE BERNOT



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RedEye

If you've lived in Chicago longer than a week, you've heard about the Smashing Pumpkins discography and have been beaten over the head with how influential "Exile In Guyville" is. It's true, Chicago has crafted some amazingly inspirational bodies of music, but we thought it was high time to advance the conversation about the best of the best firmly into this century. Our only requirement: The album had to come out after Jan. 1 2001. (BTW: We also thought the century started in 2000.)

TRIBUNE AND GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTOS



COMMON

**LUPE
FIASCO**

WILCO
Jeff Tweedy


**CHANCE
THE RAPPER**
**KANYE
WEST**
ALKALINE TRIO**'From Here To Infirmary' (2001)**

A refreshingly direct piece of pop punk, Matt Skiba's lyrics and the band's seemingly never-ending ability to write big hooks resulted in a succinct piece of dangerous fun.

ERNEST WILKINS

WILCO**'Yankee Hotel Foxtrot' (2001)**

'Yankee Hotel Foxtrot' is damn near perfect, an album that echoes all of the legends of rock music (Beatles, Eagles, Turtles, etc.) and manages to fully encapsulate America's plethora of post-9/11 emotions. **E.W.**

TORTOISE**'Standards' (2001)**

With sounds ranging from jazz to '70s funk, this instrumental album feels like the entire history of American music thrown in a blender then strained through one of those five-necked guitars Cheap Trick used to play. **E.W.**

FALL OUT BOY**'Take This to Your Grave' (2003)**

More than a decade later, every track on the full-length debut from one of the city's most successful rock bands holds up. While 'Take This to Your Grave' offers only a glimpse of what Patrick Stump's vocal talent, the album firmly identifies the intersection of his expert hooks and Pete Wentz's sometimes-chilling, acid heartbreak lyrics as a formula for deserved stardom. **MATT PAIS**

R. KELLY**'Chocolate Factory' (2003)**

An album that was released mid-controversy, this album will forever be tied to its creator's sordid legacy. R. Kelly produced a bulletproof R&B record, proving that he could maneuver through a party ('Ignition Remix') as well as he could the bedroom ('Snake'). **E.W.**

WILCO**'A Ghost Is Born' (2004)**

'Yankee Hotel Foxtrot' is frequently identified as the group's classic, but I find myself returning to the album that came next. It's looser, fuzzier, weirder and more fun. **M.P.**

KANYE WEST**'The College Dropout' (2004)**

With one of the greatest debut albums ever, Kanye West stormed the scene with such an intensity that it felt like he was impatiently waiting on the rest of us to catch up on the inevitable: He was going to be one of the biggest artists in the world. From struggles with self-esteem ('All Falls Down') to grappling with having faith in an overly secular industry ('Jesus Walks') to creating of the best rap songs ever ('Spaceship'), he explored so many different facets of black identity that at times it felt like he was addressing you directly. **E.W.**


**FALL OUT
BOY
PATRICK STUMP**
FALL OUT BOY**'From Under The Cork Tree' (2005)**

I definitely didn't appreciate 'Cork Tree' in its entirety upon its release. But I did do a pretty phenomenal job of screaming "I'LL BE YOUR BEST-KEPT SECRET AND YOUR BIGGEST MISTAKE" along with Patrick Stump on 'Nobody Puts Baby In The Corner.' Did I also once text a guy to say, 'And if you say this makes you happy then I'm not the only one lying?' Ummmm... 'facepalm'. **Dana Moran**

COMMON**'Be' (2005)**

Common's career stalled after 2002's widely panned 'Electric Circus.' Enter Kanye West. The Chicagoans teamed up and the result is golden: 'Be' catapulted Common back into popular conversation and saw him expanding his horizons while reflecting on love, life and the community that shaped him. **E.W.**

KANYE WEST**'Late Registration' (2005)**

Partnering with Jon Brion (Fiona Apple) proved a beneficial decision for West's sophomore release. The result was an anthemic follow-up that manages to soar and sink while painting a vivid picture throughout. **E.W.**

LUPE FIASCO**'Food & Liquor Vol. 1' (2006)**

A stellar debut packed with impactful lyrics, Fiasco managed to paint vivid imagery about street life and socio-political issues without resorting to cliché or boring you to sleep. While 'Kick, Push' was the biggest record on this album, don't sleep; Lupe proved he also had something important to say. **E.W.**

RISE AGAINST**'The Sufferer & the Witness' (2006)**

The fourth album from the political punk outfit carries on with tradition: Scream, mosh, educate, repeat. More punishing than previous releases, this album saw Rise Against hit its

biggest high as a band, debuting at No. 10 on the Billboard 200. **E.W.**

KANYE WEST**'Graduation' (2007)**

The album that launched Kanye to full pop icon status. Chock-full of anthemic tunes that feel right at home in stadiums, songs like 'Good Life' and the Daft Punk-sampling 'Stronger' propelled West to a previously unthinkable level of superstardom for a rap act. **E.W.**

KANYE WEST**'808s & Heartbreak' (2008)**

If the 'College Dropout' was West saying 'I'm coming to get it and you can't stop me!' then '808s' is 'I got it! Now what?' Created in the shadow of the end of his relationship with his fiancée and the death of his mother, Kanye crafted a wholly dark audio landscape channeling his own emotions. **E.W.**

KANYE WEST**'My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy' (2010)**

Kanye's ego may have been at Peak Kanye levels by the time 'MBDTF' came out, but he was completely right. The album is a masterpiece. It's tough to call this a traditional album; from the lifted kickoff of 'Dark Fantasy' to Nicki Minaj's star- and hair-raising turn on 'Monster,' 'MBDTF' is a rap opera. **E.W.**

CHIEF KEEF**'Finally Rich' (2012)**

How many of you actually listened to this album? While most choose to focus on Keef's bad-boy image or stick their noses in the air, the kid knows how to craft infectious earworms. Add the fact that Keef's rise led to several local acts getting mainstream attention and you can't ignore how big 'Finally Rich' was. **E.W.**

CHANCE THE RAPPER**'Acid Rap' (2013)**

Appealing to virtually every facet of rap fandom (Chance has yet to put out a Juggalo-appealing tune) and invoking the rich history of Chicago music, this album has plentiful amounts of juke, blues, soul, gospel, drill, house—and even manages to squeeze in Twista. It all begs the serious question: Where the hell did this kid come from? **E.W.**

KANYE WEST**'Yeezus' (2013)**

An album that managed to rejuvenate Kanye West despite coming after his best album, this record eschews any previous work while embracing the non-radio friendly influences of acid house. **E.W.**

DJ RASHAD**'Double Cup' (2013)**

The only official release from the late DJ and footwork pioneer, this album is a culmination of a near-decade of creating infective dance music while living just beneath the surface of mainstream. Aggressive and unforgiving while still managing to make you shake something, it's a tragedy we'll never get a proper followup. **E.W.**

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Jhene Aiko performs at Lollapalooza. JOSE M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE

ALBUM REVIEW



Souled Out Jhene Aiko



a stoner record?" "Well, how about 'Souled Out'?" "Perfect. It's just the right description of her voice, PLUS the obvious pun about her giving in to the man."

So "Souled Out" it is, from the velvety-voiced singer who brought you the backup on Drake's "From Time," and also held her own at a sizzling Lollapalooza performance last month. Her 2013 EP, "Sail Out," also was a great promise of things to come, with guests such as Kendrick Lamar, Childish Gambino and Ab-Soul.

Aiko's vocals are what a panther would sound like if it sang: husky and sleek, guarded

By Dana Moran

REDEYE

I'm enjoying imagining the meeting that took place over the name of Jhene Aiko's full-length debut. It probably went something like this:

"Blissed Out?"

"No, that sounds like a hippie." "Zoned Out?" "What is this,

and seductive. It nearly serves to mask the message behind tracks like "W.A.Y.S.," where Aiko reveals the purpose behind her drive ("This is for my brother, I do this for my daughter"), while at the same time seeming trapped in her life ("I gotta show them, that I can keep going/I gotta keep going. I gotta keep going"). She's an empathy-inspiring figure, a woman getting by on her voice, her luck and her heartbreak.

"Souled Out" is a lovely record, to be sure. But Aiko doesn't push her voice and emotions beyond that simplicity. Tracks such as "Lyn King," filled with smart lyrics about a crappy ex, could've crackled with an injection of passion. Aiko writes her own work; you'd think she'd want to push herself to bring out the most in the material, but I found the 13 tracks melting into each other. That's great if you're using the album for an extended seduction session, but tiring if you're giving "Souled Out" a studied listen.

Hopefully next time around, she realizes that an album is like a walk through a museum gallery: You only want to stare at a beautiful watercolor for so long before moving on. DMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEDANA



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Michelle Williams on her 'Journey to Freedom'

Los Angeles Times

As one-third of Destiny's Child, Michelle Williams' multi-platinum success with one of the biggest girl groups of all time has long overshadowed what she's done on her own. Nearly a decade after the group's swan song, Williams has dipped her toes in numerous lanes. She has issued hit gospel albums, tackled Broadway and toured with productions.

Her fourth album, "Journey to Freedom," released Tuesday, is her first effort since 2008's dance-pop-R&B "Unexpected." Already No. 1 on the iTunes Christian & Gospel chart, the record blends the many genres Williams has explored for an uplifting set that retains the soul and fiery grooves her fans have come to expect.

The album has quite a declarative title. What has your journey to freedom meant?

I'm still on the journey. It's a journey of leaving the past and moving forward and being free from anything that's going to keep me from being my absolute best. Sometimes you're scared of letting go of your comfort zone. You might be scared of letting go of familiar territory. On the road to greatness or success, there is a season where you have to be alone and you have to get free from those worries and those doubts.

What was the comfort zone you felt you wanted to break from?

I can't tell you how many times I got cursed out, because there would be a song and I'd say, "That's not for me." I allowed myself to be put in a box. People say, "Oh, that's the good girl, she's conservative." I had to get out of that comfort zone of feeling like what gospel music

is supposed to sound like. ... I don't think God cares if it's an angel playing with a harp or if a rapper is talking about the good news and inspiring.

Six years have passed since the last album. Did Broadway delay the project?

From 2007 to 2013, it was consumed with theater. I had done "Chicago" in London, Morocco and then we toured with it. My contract with "The Color Purple" was for a year. ... [The album] probably could have came out last year but I was doing "Fela." ... Hopefully next year I'm on the Broadway stage again.

This album isn't overtly gospel. Was that intentional?

My very first gospel album, I was told, "It's got to sound like a gospel record." And then the second one I got a bit more eclectic, but by the time I did this third gospel record, I didn't want to alienate anybody. When you call it a gospel album, people are already like, "Eh, I don't know." But because of my association with Destiny's Child, people might pay attention a little more.

What's one thing you did this year that put you closer to your definition of freedom?

Anything you still battle with?

Taking accountability for my actions. When you're down in the dump, we blame other people. There are other people and elements that can contribute, but they say if you know better, do better. I do struggle with putting other people first. I'm still learning that it's OK to put me first.



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New 'Biggest Loser' trainer is a true gladiator



Luis Gomez

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Let's just get this out of the way: New "Biggest Loser" trainer and Naperville North High School alum Jennifer Widerstrom used to be a gladiator on "American Gladiators."

Widerstrom—or "Phoenix," as she was known on the rebooted NBC series that also featured MMA fighter Gina

Carano—was responsible for tackling and intimidating contestants during challenges. She credited "American Gladiators" with helping prepare her for "The Biggest Loser: Glory Days," which premieres Thursday.

"It gave me a taste of the industry," Widerstrom said over the phone last week. "It was a blast. We were grown-ups playing games. I would be laughing and taunting [the con-

testants] sarcastically—I'm from Chicago, I don't think I was mean. The only time I was mean was when some of the girls would play dirty and try to pull my top down: 'You want to play dirty? I play dirty too.'

"It was a persona. It was more of a character. ['Biggest Loser'] is about me getting to be who I am."

Widerstrom, 32, is in the midst of her biggest opportunity yet. She and Jessie Pavelka are the two new trainers on "The Biggest Loser," replacing longtime trainer Jillian Michaels. The contestants this season are former athletes, including ex-NFL players Scott Mitchell and Damien Woody. Mitchell, a former quarterback for the Detroit Lions, was said to have weighed 366 pounds when taping began.

"I love people and connecting with them," Widerstrom said. "I think I'm very good at helping people find their way. I chose fitness and health as a way to do it. This show offers me a platform and place to reach them."

How does Widerstrom's approach differ

from past trainers?

"The show has had such incredible trainers who have put their stamp on it," she said. "Now is my opportunity to give my take. I definitely joked with my team. I don't feel like I have to break someone to help them. When you're able to be vulnerable, that creates a window for them to be vulnerable back. It allows for a safe place for people to be successful."



Jennifer Widerstrom as herself (left) and as Gladiator Phoenix
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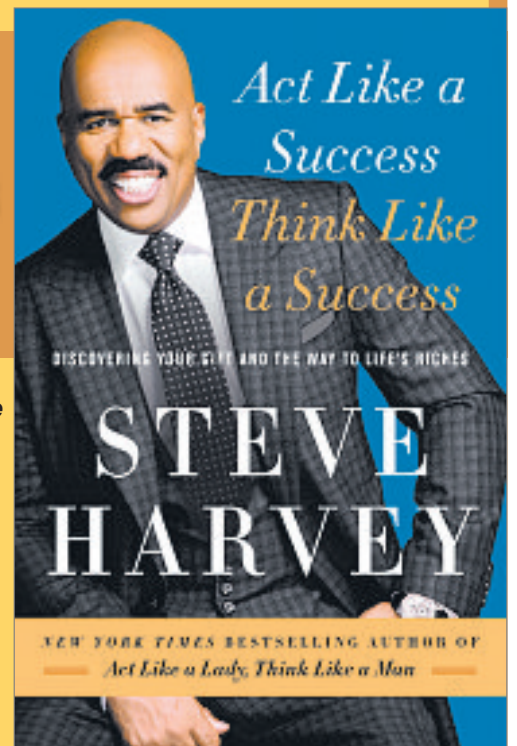
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Patton Oswalt

How Patton Oswalt spent his summer Twitter-free

The Washington Post

Patton Oswalt has established himself as one of the country's most prolific and controversial Twitter comedians, consistently ranking online publications and sparring with such varied opponents as DC Comics, Donald Trump and a campus minister in South Carolina. He seemed to enjoy ruffling feathers, but the pressure and the time he dedicated were taking a toll. So in June he undertook a very public "Twitter break," writing that he'd be taking the summer off and would return to social media in September.

What initially inspired the Twitter break?

This thing, Twitter, which was supposed to be fun, was suddenly taking up a lot of the time that I would normally take to create new things. To write comedy, write scripts, work on books. I was suddenly writing these essays, trying to explain myself to the humorless, explain comedy, what context means. This thing that's just supposed to be fun almost became a third career.

So it didn't come from an addiction, per se?

It wasn't so much that I was addicted to Twitter, I was addicted to: What's the reaction going to be? What are the comments?

What was that first week like? Did it feel like turning off a side of your brain?

It was more like turning off a way of thinking. Like, "How do I have the very first take on

something? How do I keep it super short and in a way no one will misinterpret me?" On [Twitter], I was in a rush to not speak my mind. It was making me hurry up to triple-think everything that came out of my brain, which, for a comedian, and also a human, is just deadly. ... I was starting to think, "Oh what's the safe thing to do here? What will appeal to the most amount of people?" And everything I've ever done in my career is the opposite of that.

During the break, were there a few occasions you really wished you could engage?

I broke my Twitter fast twice, aside from re-tweeting and helping with certain friends' projects. It wasn't fair for me to take the break and not help with things I said I was going to do. The two times I broke it were once at the height of my disgust with what happened in Ferguson and also the day after Robin Williams died, because I was so heartbroken.

When you return to Twitter, how will you change the way you interact? Are you going to alter your persona or how you approach detractors?

I'm going to be even freer in what I say, and I'm going to be less responsive to outrage. Those are the two things I've learned. I can actually go further than I thought I could, and I can respond less. I now have objective proof that those things are totally valid.



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Gabriel Luna inspired by his father on 'Matador'

MCT

Gabriel Luna's father died before he was born. But it was his dad who convinced him to become an actor.

When he was a senior in high school, he got a call from his paternal grandmother. "She'd found a bunch of items in the attic that had belonged to my father," he says. "She wanted me to see them. She thought I would appreciate them, which I would. Any time anything happened, or I met anyone who knew my father or anyone who had something of his, every little bit was a piece of the puzzle."

His grandmother handed him the box. "And it was full of items. There were football trophies, a soccer trophy, of course, his yearbooks and a VHS tape. I popped it in, and it was my father in a play that he wrote, starred in and directed for our church for Easter. I watched it and was weeping, of course, because there he was alive. It was the first time I'd ever seen him when he was alive."

At the time Luna was already an achiever. He was class president and played strong

safety on the football team in his native Austin, Texas.

When one of this teachers asked him to try out for the school play, Horton Foote's "1918," he refused. "I explained, 'I just can't do that, man.' I was thinking in my head, 'What would my football team think? Am I supposed to get up in front of everybody?' I just couldn't possibly do that. I was too shy. I went home."

That's when he received the call from his grandmother and opened the Pandora's box his father hat left. "After I'm done [watching the video] I start to think, 'Oh, man. My teacher just asked me to do just that.' ... So I went back the next day and said, 'You know, I'll give it a shot.' I went up and gave it a shot, and [got] the lead," he says.

"The opening scene is me standing at a couple of unmarked graves asking this old lady which one belongs to my father—which was a weird synchronicity at the time."

Luna sees the same synchronicity in the role he's playing now in "Matador" on the El Rey Network. He portrays a professional soccer player for an L.A. team who lives a secret life



Gabriel Luna (left) in 'Matador'

on the other side of the field. In reality he's a CIA operative, a duality that often leaves him adrift in two different worlds and plunges him into unknown territory.

"It runs an eerie parallel to my actual life,"

he says. "I've always admired people who could do this [acting]. I wasn't the person who could when I was young. It just took time and practice to overcome my fearfulness, and now it's brought me to a good place in my life."

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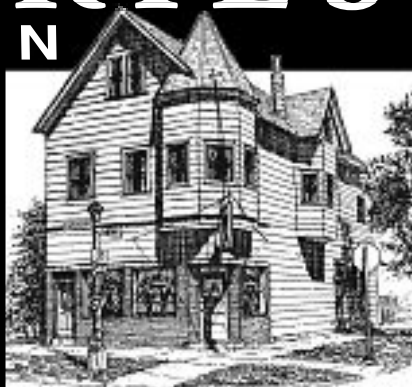
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Danielle Fishel (left) and the cast of 'Girl Meets World'
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Danielle Fishel reveals her world in autobiography

Los Angeles Times

Danielle Fishel drew a line in the sand after “Boy Meets World” came to a close after seven seasons. She wasn’t going to audition for soap operas or horror films.

After all, she’d starred on a successful ABC sitcom since she was 12, making her bouncy Topanga Lawrence a beloved ’90s girl icon alongside D.J. Tanner and Sabrina the Teenage Witch. Surely there were plenty of casting agents on quality projects who’d kill to book her.

Yeah, not so much.

After a few years without any major gigs, Fishel went back on her promise and begrudgingly tried out for “The Bold and the Beautiful.” At the audition, she was told to hold her arms out while rotating 360 degrees as a camera panned up and down her body.

“Ah, the entertainment industry. Where talent and ability are less important than height and weight,” she recalls in her new book, “Normally, This Would Be Cause for Concern.” “I am pleased to say that since that day, I have never auditioned for another horror movie or soap opera. And you know why? Because I may not be perfect, but we are all too good for that crap.”

This is the cheeky, self-mocking tone Fishel invokes often in her book, which hit shelves Tuesday. At 33, she’s billing herself as the relatable celebrity, writing about how she eats at Red Robin and didn’t realize her high

school boyfriend—’NSync’s Lance Bass—was gay. “You’re definitely going to want to be her best friend!” promises the book’s jacket.

Since her days as TGIF prime-time royalty, Fishel has kept her distance from Hollywood. When she got a call last year that the Disney Channel wanted to create a new series for “Boys Meets World” fans—“Girl Meets World,” on which Topanga and her high school boyfriend, Ben Savage’s Cory, are now parents—she had all but retired from Hollywood.

Her first book—if you can call it that—was done with a ghostwriter when she was 16: “A Girl’s Guide to Life.” No ... that wasn’t it. “A Teenager’s Guide to Life”? It was a long time ago,” she said.

“There are a lot of books that are like, ‘How I Overcame My Addiction’ or whatever, and I don’t have any of those,” Fishel continued. “What am I gonna write? ‘Here’s the most boring book you could possibly imagine about life in Orange County?’”

But Brandi Bowles, a literary agent at Foundry Literary & Media, saw potential in the so-called mundanity of Fishel’s life.

“I followed her on Twitter, and I instantly saw in her that she could be a Mindy Kaling type of figure,” Bowles said. “She’s someone you’d want to hang out with. I always felt like there was something about Topanga that made her feel like your on-screen best friend.”

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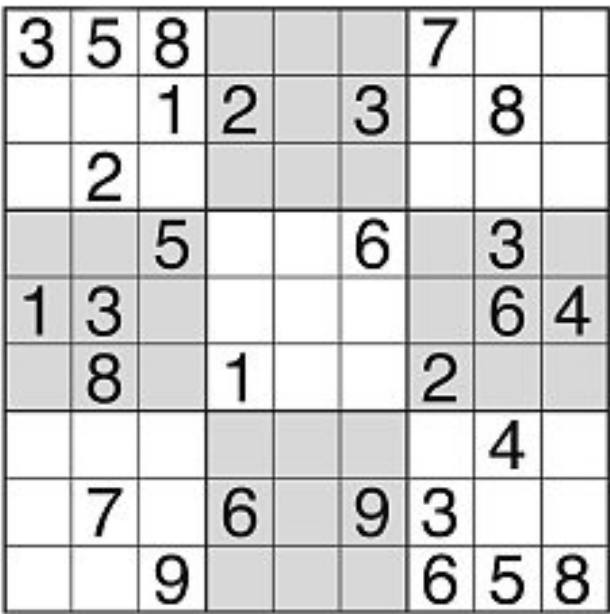
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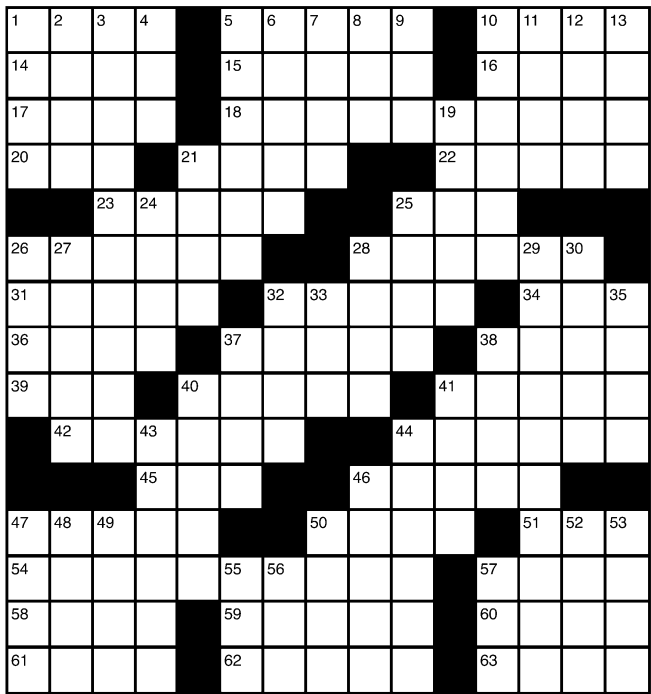
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- 38 Yearn
- 39 Last year's jrs.
- 40 As _ as honey
- 41 Motherless calf
- 42 Shun; avoid
- 44 Raised, as kids
- 45 _-been; one no longer
popular
- 46 Black-and-white animal
- 47 _ Allan Poe
- 50 Treaty
- 51 Expert
- 52 Land and buildings
- 57 Part of the leg
- 58 Intense anger
- 59 Rarin' to go
- 60 Heap
- 61 Bench board
- 62 Lock of hair
- 63 Highest cards

DOWN

- 1 Arrive
- 2 Set __; attack
- 3 Dogged; unyielding
- 4 At the __ of the day;
ultimately
- 5 Speak evil of
- 6 Without companions
- 7 Whiplash site
- 8 Annoy



- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9 Consumed | 29 "National _"; magazine | 46 Cracker spreads |
| 10 Overexert | 30 since 1888 | 47 Goes astray |
| 11 Penniless | 30 Golfer _ Els | 48 Pass out cards |
| 12 Common metal | 32 Aviated | 49 Very excited |
| 13 Cruise & Hanks | 33 Recline | 50 Book leaf |
| 19 Contradict | 35 Like fine wine | 52 Irritate |
| 21 Fragrance | 37 Amazes | 53 Dollar bills |
| 24 Does drugs | 38 Cargo; burden | 55 _ up; arrange |
| 25 Caramel-glazed custard | 40 Be generous | 56 Paver's goo |
| 26 Big _; 18-wheelers | 41 Fender bender memento | 57 Tub with swirling waters |
| 27 Venerate | 43 Alpine house | |
| 28 Verse writer | 44 Very fast cars | |

TODAY IN THE YEAR...

1918: The Cubs lost the World Series to the Boston Red Sox.

1945: Former Japanese Prime Minister Hideki Tojo attempted suicide. (He recovered and was executed as a war criminal.)

1962: The Beatles recorded their first single (“Love Me Do” and “P.S., I Love You”) at Abbey Road Studios in London.



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HEY, COME HERE OFTEN?

STEP UP YOUR
GAME WITH THESE
SUREFIRE CELEBRITY
PICKUP LINES

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

We've all heard—or used—a cheesy pickup line before, but this one from a woman at the Toronto International Film Festival might take the all-time cake. During a Q&A session featuring the stars of “The Imitation Game,” one audience member asked **Benedict Cumberbatch** the following question: “Would I be able to feast on your yumminess?”

We'll give you a second with that one.

Poor Benedict came up with a polite reply, this being a public forum and all, but certainly there are better lines to use on a celeb. We rounded up some single famous folks for a “do use/do NOT use” pickup lines primer. DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | [@REDEYEDANA](https://twitter.com/REDEYEDANA)



EPA



Britney Spears

USE

“Hey, your sons are really adorable! I'm a single parent too, maybe they could hang out with my kids.”

DO NOT USE

“Hey, remember that one time when you were on MTV with the snake? Huh huh huh.”



Liam Hemsworth

USE

“Want to play Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots? We can pretend to be kangaroos fighting each other!”

DO NOT USE

Silently sticking out your tongue in his direction.



James Franco

USE

“Want to come to this open-mic night with me? Your poetry is just so deep and moving.”

DO NOT USE

“If you really loved me, would you cut your arm off like you did in ‘127 Hours’? Wait, that wasn't real?”



Rihanna

USE

“Tell me the story behind your favorite tattoo.”

DO NOT USE

“I really hope you break my heart someday too. Drake got some great songs out of it.”



Donald Glover

USE

“Those pyrotechnics at your Lolla show really got me hot and bothered—or maybe it was your sick flow.”

DO NOT USE

“Man, ‘Community’ really should have been canceled years ago!”



Mindy Kaling

USE

“Let's go watch ‘You've Got Mail’ and snuggle on the couch!”

DO NOT USE

“I see what you're doing with your career, but women just are not funny.”



Turtlenecks.

Meet Launa

Launa is a 19-year-old of Japanese and English descent. She was born in Tokyo but currently lives in Ibaraki, which is home to a ton of rice fields. She enjoys traveling, surfing YouTube, snowboarding and yoga. In junior high school, her handball team was one of the best in Japan and they won a championship. She recently spent a couple of months as an intern for our marketing team and will soon be moving to London to work in one of our stores. She is pictured here wearing the Cotton Spandex Jersey Long Sleeve Turtleneck and The Micro-Poly Cheerleader Skirt.

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 - Evanston—950 Church St.
 - Schaumburg—Woodfield Mall

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Guessing game

TV is about to look even more like your real life. NBC is developing a show called "Pub Quiz," a sitcom about friends who do bar trivia, tvguide.com reports. It clearly needs to feature the following characters: The group who thinks their stupid team name is absolutely hilarious, the group that always has about four more points than your team and a very pimply triviamaster. Not that we're speaking from experience or anything.

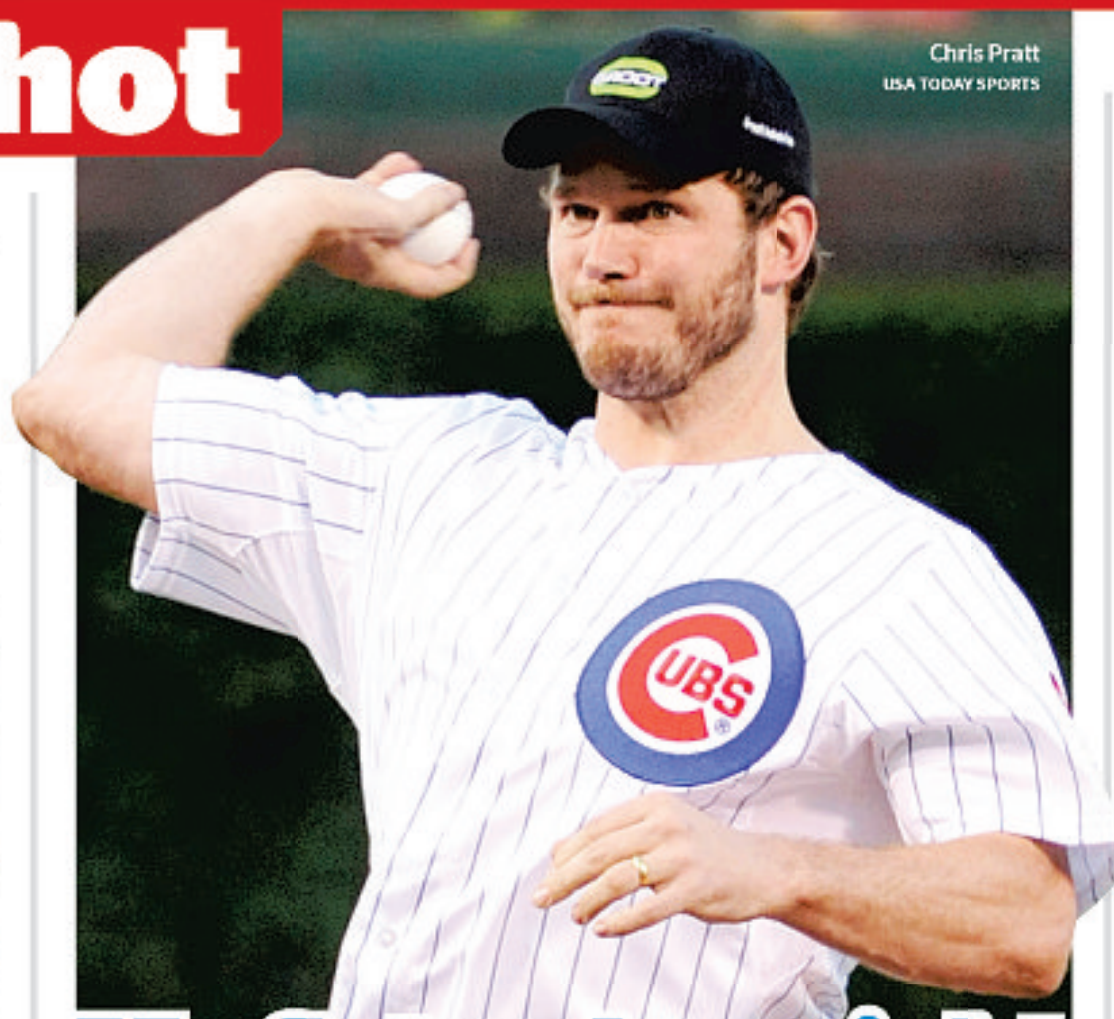


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HOT DATE

NOV. 24

That's when **Nicki Minaj** will drop her long-awaited next album, "The Pinkprint," she announced via Twitter early Wednesday. Put it on your calendar with a big fat circle—in pink.



Chris Pratt
USA TODAY SPORTS

Mr. Saturday night

Crown him: Chris Pratt is officially the comedy king of 2014. NBC announced Tuesday the "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "Parks and Recreation" star will host its 40th season premiere Sept. 27 with musical guest Ariana Grande. Side note: Ariana Grande will celebrate her 40th birthday in 2033, which should make all of us feel really old right about now.



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Catch-23

If your favorite part of the very funny "22 Jump Street" was the part at the end where Jenko and Schmidt act out the movie's fake sequels, we have some thumpingly good news for you. Deadline.com reports that "23 Jump Street" is in fact in the works, though directors **Christopher Miller** (left) and **Phil Lord** have yet to sign on. Gotta keep the original comedy cats together, guys.

THE DIGIT

164,000



That's how many copies Maroon 5's "V" sold in its first week to top the Billboard 200 chart. The Adam Levine-led group's last album,

"Overexposed," kicked off with 222,000 albums sold. At least he still has good hair?



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THE QUOTE

I wouldn't be unhappy to find out that no dinosaurs are involved."

—**Jeff Goldblum**, to *Vulture*, on his upcoming wedding. The "Jurassic Park" star recently appeared in one of those tacky Photoshopped wedding photos with a T. rex in the background. If you're thinking about doing it yourself, please spare your Facebook friends.

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